

VII.—A NOTE ON THE MIGRATION OF THE SWALLOW
SHRIKE (*ARTAMUS FUSCUS* VIEILL.)

Though Jerdon includes the Northern Circars in the list of areas where he found this species most abundant, yet it is not reported by the Vernay Scientific Survey of the Eastern Ghats. And the most probable reason is, think Whistler and Kinnear (see vol. xxxvi, p. 347 of this *Journal*), that the bird is a migrant in this area. As there is no further record until Madras is reached, my notes on its occurrence in Elwinpet, Cocanada, may be of interest.

From pretty close observation, ranging over a long period, I think this bird comes to Cocanada during the hot weather for breeding purposes. It makes its presence known by its constant harsh screeches, made when driving away every other bird from the vicinity of the tree—usually a Palmyra palm, which it selects for its home. Drongos, crows, hawks and even kites flee before its lightning swoop. It is not an uncommon sight to see a dozen or more of these birds huddled together in the fronds of the Palmyra.

The birds appear in large numbers about the beginning of April and building operations begin almost immediately. Some nests are completed by the end of April; while other birds are seen still tugging at coir or jute or carrying straws, even during the middle of June.

Immediately after June, the noise and din made by these birds ceases and they are not seen again until the month of September. They disappear again about the end of September and reappear towards the end of December or beginning of January and are not seen again till the beginning of April.

During these 'non-active' months, one may occasionally see a bird or two flying very high up as if bound on some distant journey, uttering its shrill call. They never appear to come down. The truth seems to be, that, like the koels, these birds spend part of the year in the interior and appear along the coast only during the summer months—April to June. They appear to shun civilization and are found only in open and uncultivated tracts. They come with the beginning of the hot weather and disappear before the monsoon sets in, about the middle of June.

ELWINPET, COCANADA,

A. S. THYAGARAJU,

GODAVARY.

M.A.

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VIII.—SPEED OF THE LARGE-PIED WAGTAIL
(*MOTACILLA MADERASPATENSIS* GMELIN).

While motorecycling sometime back, I had two occasions to test the flying powers of the Large-Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*).

On a fine stretch of road between Dakor and Mahudha (Kaira District), I started some Large Pied Wagtails feeding in the middle